Anglia

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Englands Appeal

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

AT

OXFORD,

March 21st. 168$\frac{0}{1}$.

Most Worthy Senators,

OUR Distempers are many and Grievous, our pressures heavy and Burthensom, our Application we make to you, through the Blessing of God you are the means of our help, and as Parliaments are constituted by *Law*, called by the *King*, Chosen by the *People*, and all this for these ends? Either Humbly to Counsel the *King*, to provide for the safety of the *Subject*, to prevent the Conspiracies of our *Enemies*; of which we have many; principally the Papists, who for these hundred years have Persecuted and Demolished the Protestant Interest in *England*, *Scotland*, *Ireland*, and likewise in all parts of *Europe*; their implacable rage hath transcended all the Malice and Mischief of former Ages Cruelty, whether of the *Assyrians* and *Philistins* of old to the *Israelites*, or the last ten Persecuting *Heathen Emperours* to the *Primitive Christians*.

But those (*most Worthy Senators*) which are the Supplanters of our Protestant Interest, which indeed is our best Interest, are certainly a pernicious woven Knot of malignant active Spirits Combining and Confederating to supplant the fundamental Laws and Principles of Government, on which the Religion and Government of the Kingdom are firmly established, and of this sort must there be these four. *viz.*

1. The *first sort* are *Jesuited Papists*, whose Teeth have long water'd for, and their ravenous Appetites hungered to devour our Religion.

2. The *second sort* are *Perfidious Papists* in *Protestant Masques*, of these too many have we lurking in *England*; these are Enemies very dangerous, because most indiscernable, their Enmity is hid under a Vizard of Friendship, and if in high places and great Imployments, do harm; for under a pretence of plucking down Popery they set the Structure the firmer; if possible, though secredly, they Act as much or more than the professed Papists.

3. The *third sort* are *Treacherous Courtiers* who may in a Pensionary way for beggarly selfish ends engage themselves to Foreign Princes, to the prejudice of their natural King and State at home; (*I don't say there are such in* England, but I wish there be none,) these may harm us exceedingly, being politick men, and not unable through deficiency of parts to set on work their evil designs, having also the advantage of place added to the former; and generally it tends these four wayes.

Either first to work and win the *King* to stand stifly to his *Royal Prerogative*, and the People for the maintenance of their *Liberties* and *Priviledges*, thus seeming to side with the *King* against the Subject, would seem his faithful Servants and truest Friends, when for the World he would not, but the People also should stand up for their *Liberties*, and so he fish in troubled waters to engross the more to himself.

Or Secondly, To Suppress Religion in its Purity, lest that having a free course should be an irresistable stop to their designs, and tend to pull down that Religion which he imagines most likely to set up his Interest.

Or Thirdly, in Countenancing all of their own Stamp, to Disgrace, Vilifie and Dishearten all their opposite Party, rendering none the loyal party but themselves and their adherers.

Or

Or Fourthly, By Scandals to work in the *King* to diſaffect *Parliaments*, by miſconſtructions, *&c.* which is much to our loſs; *I pray God* England *may have none ſuch evil Councellors.*

4. But the *fourth ſort* of our Enemies are *baſe Pamphletecrs*, who would gladly ſet us together by the Ears; which very much want ſuppreſſing.

Now theſe *four Enemies* of ours call us to take heed.

But (*moſt Worthy Senators*) to you do we appeal, and as we have choſen you our repreſentatives, to you do we refer it, whether or no theſe be not our Enemies, and if they be, that you would act as the caſe requires.

Beſides other miſchiefs we ſuffer; As *firſt*, but that eſpecially in the Country, our faithfull Miniſters are thruſt into corners by ſuſpenſions and deprivations.

And ſecondly, with many the name of a Papiſt is exalted above that of a Presbyterian, a very horrid Shame, yea a Judgment, that Diſſenting Proteſtants ſhould be reckoned worſe than real Papiſts: But we humbly conceive none do this but Papiſts in Proteſtant Maſques at the beſt.

And thirdly, The Plot to Aſſaſſinate his Majeſty, to Subvert the Government, ſo plainly proved, is with many not acknowledged, but rather turned into ridicule, and the Evidences ungratefully diſparaged.

And fourthly, Theſe times of uncertainty are a great let to *Englands* Proſperity, very few Sun-ſhining dayes have we enjoyed ſince this thick Cloud of Popiſh Plots have hung over our heads.

Fifthly, *England* hath been greatly Oppreſſed by reaſon of the Suppreſſion of Religion, it hath Suffered in Fines, Stigmatizings, *&c.*

Sixthly, Evil Councellors, which Craftily Confederate that which tends to our harm; but let them remember, *Malum Conſilium conſultori peſſimum*, which may prove ſo in the long run.

Seventhly, Generally in the interval of the Parliaments Sitting (*moſt Worthy Senators*) how uſual is it for you to be Vilified and greatly contemned, your procedings to be aſperſed and beſmeared.

Eighthly, Our Enemies that have begun are reſtleſs till they finiſh; as impoſſible believe it (*moſt Worthy Senators*) to be for a ſtone caſt up in the Air when deſcending towards the Earth to reſt before it attains it center; their center is Miſchief, their Motion thereunto is reſtleſs: were it otherwiſe moſt, certainly they muſt be treacherous to themſelves, becauſe unanimouſly joined to deſtroy us.

Having alſo attempted great things againſt us, and being unvailed, ſuch an *Odium* ſtains their Name, that doubtleſly nothing leſs than our blood will ſerve turn for them to waſh it off.

They alſo (we conceive) are grown to ſuch a height of Inſolency, that no leſs than a univerſal propagating of their wicked Cauſe over the *European* Parts, will ſatiſfie their Ambitious and Covetous projects, faced with the pretence of a zeal to a ſuperſtitious Religion.

All their Tricks, Evaſions and Shamming Deſigns be laid as open as themſelves, and hereby their *Odium* much aggravated muſt needs enrage their deſperateneſs.

Which is a means of not abating our Jealouſies, which incite us to Vigilancy; for we expect no Mercy from them when upon us; but *England* has been made an Aſs of to bear the heavieſt Burthens, but now it is more skittiſh, and it's danger the more *mans* it with Valour.

And (*moſt Worthy Senators*) to your Conſideration refer we theſe two principal Props of our Proſperity. Firſt, Obſtructing a Popiſh Succeſſor from Inheriting the Imperial Crown of this Realm. And Secondly, In Uniting his Majeſties Subjects, which are to us of high Concern: For we appeal to you; what Mercy, Favour or Compaſſion would a Popiſh Prince exerciſe over Proteſtant Subjects? whether or no he would be falſe to his own Profeſſion, were he true to us, our Religion, Liberties and Property? Our union alſo is a great Branch of our Felicity, in that it diſheartens all our Foes.

Therefore (*Moſt Worthy Senators*) as our Grievances are heavy, our Enemies many, our Jealouſies numerous and fearful, as all with us is at hazard, as *Religion*, *Liberty*, *Property*, and that you would be pleaſed to conſider your own and the Nations Good; which that you may do, Prayeth the *Engliſh Nation*.

LONDON,
Printed for *R. Janeway*. 1681.